



KFAPA News

KFAPA To Host Annual Conference

July 11, 2009, Topeka, Kansas

The Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association, in collaboration with the Kansas Family Advisory Network, SRS, the Office of Judicial Administration and Children's Alliance, is holding its first annual conference on July 11, 2009 in Topeka, Kansas. The conference is titled *Connecting the Dots: Kansas Families and Children*. We are working to bring together birth families, foster, adoptive, and kinship families, families new to the child welfare system, and workers new to the system to share information and exchange ideas.

Watch our website for updates at www.kfapa.com. The conference planning committee is working to obtain funding to present this conference at no charge to the participants. Lodging is being reserved for the first 100 families to register, at no charge. The conference brochure will be posted on our website and will also be distributed to the child placement agencies as soon as it is developed. We are very excited about this conference and we look forward to meeting many families on July 11.

KFAPA Names New Vice President

Stacey Ulrich, Salina, Kansas

The Board of Directors of the Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association is pleased to announce that Stacey Ulrich is the new association vice president. Stacy is from Salina, Kansas. She graduated from KU and lived in Kansas City for a few years before returning to Salina. Stacey has an 11-year-old biological daughter and two foster babies who are 1 and 2. She is in the adoption process for both the babies and hopes to finalize in 2009. Stacey currently works at Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS). She began in Marketing and Development three years ago and has served in Clinical Services for

one year as the Regulatory Development Coordinator. Prior to SFCS, Stacey was a stay-at-home mom for eight years and also a Para-Educator. She has been a licensed home for three years, had her little girl for one and a half years and her little boy for one year. Stacey says that as she sees the need for Foster Parents growing, "it is my desire to do what I can to make the experience a positive growth experience for all who make the commitment to Kansas children. I hope in this new role with KFAPA I am able to help



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Volume 1, Issue 3

January 2009

Are You Reading the KFAPA Blog?

The Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association launched a blog website in 2008. Internet users can visit the blog at www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com. President Sandra Hiller contributes random blog posts containing news and items of interest to association members.

To Subscribe:

If you use Yahoo or Google (and some other sites) as your default homepage, then you can subscribe to the KFAPA blog to receive updates when there are new posts. From the blog website, under "Subscribe," click on "Posts" and choose from the list of sites. On your default homepage, look for the new box that was added.

Meet the Board

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Nancy Weigant
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Quarterly KFAPA board meetings are held on the first month of each quarter on the third Saturday:

April 18, 2009 - Region 1
Southeast Kansas

Meeting notices will be posted on our website, www.kfapa.com and on the Children's Alliance Recruitment Calendar at www.childally.org.

Region 4 Has New Vice President

Deena Duesberg, Marquette, Kansas

Deena and her husband Gary live in Marquette, Kansas and have been foster parents for more than three years. Deena has built a career of working with Adults and Children with disabilities. Working as direct care staff through college, she continued advancing in the field and is currently the Executive Director of Mosaic in Ellsworth. She and her husband are supporting two HCBS teenage boys in their home and plan to continue providing specialized care to children with disabilities. Deena is happy to help any family trying to maneuver the MR/DD system in the state and welcomes the opportunity to assist other foster families with her new role as KFAPA Region 4 Vice President.



Stacey Ulrich Continued

families find the resources and answers they need to care for the children in their home." Stacey will be in charge of the newsletter in addition to the regular responsibilities of a vice president.

WELCOME, STACEY!

KFAPA is a 501 c 3 approved organization.

~ATTENTION READERS~

Our newsletter will now include a regular column from the Office of Judicial Administration and from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If you have specific topics of interest that you would like either of these agencies to address, please let us know and we will try to include them in future issues of *KFAPA News*.

Judicial Information



News from KDHE

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) provides administrative oversight for each of the Kansas District Courts. The Family and Children Programs Unit of the Office of Judicial Administration works closely with Kansas courts and stakeholders in the child welfare system to improve safety, permanency and well being for children and families involved in child welfare.

The Office of Judicial Administration provides support through training and education, development of standards to guide child welfare practice, and data collection and analysis.

The Office of Judicial Administration organizes several court improvement projects for professionals and consumers of the child welfare system. The OJA plans to provide a series of workshops for families on understanding the court process. Announcements of the workshops and other Court Improvement Projects will be highlighted each quarter in *KFAPA News*.

The Office of Judicial Administration staff would like to thank you for the daily support you provide to children.



The Child Placing Agency and Residential Programs (Foster Care) page of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) website has recently been updated. The page can be found at the following link: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/foster_care.html.

The primary areas of interest to foster families most likely include the *Frequently Asked Questions - Regulations for Family Foster Homes*; and the *Policy Regulation Exceptions and Interpretations. Kansas Laws and Regulations for Licensing Family Foster Homes for Children* is also available on the website.

With the implementation of the revised regulations, which became effective on March 28, 2008, foster parents and child-placing agency (CPA) staff have asked questions and requested guidance in regard to some of those foundational standards. To ensure the answers to those questions are accessible to all, the information is sent to each of the CPAs and is also posted on the website. CPAs are notified when new questions and answers are added to the list. We encourage you to add this website to your "Favorites," so you can refer to this valuable resource for support and guidance as you are providing activities, supervision and care for Kansas children.

Following the implementation of the regulations, KDHE also received feedback from foster families and from CPA staff in regard to a need for clarification and guidance about unanticipated issues that were impacting some families. Following consideration of the feedback received, the administrative team developed the exceptions and interpretations to address those issues. KDHE also notifies the CPAs when a new interpretation or exception becomes effective.

We hope the information available on the KDHE website is helpful to each of you as you continue providing family foster home care for children. You are a valuable resource for Kansas children. Thank you!

From SRS: Child Welfare FY 2010 Contract Information

General Information:

- The effective date of the new contracts is July 1, 2009.
- Catchment regions for the contracts remain the same, with five regions.
- Contract duration is four years with possibility of two, 2-year renewals.
- Transition activities in communities will occur as needed from January to June of 2009.
- Each region will develop a transition plan in their community for the contracts.

New Safety, Permanency & Well-being Attributes for 2010:

- Family Preservation Services delivers services to families with children in their home.
- Families with children removed from the home into foster care are served by a foster care case management contractor.
- Family preservation services are now able to provide agency services for pregnant women who use substances.
- Individualized adoption recruitment is streamlined for responsibility with a single foster care case management contractor.
- Kansas has a separate contract with Kansas Children's Service League, who will manage the state-wide adoption exchange for outreach, marketing and media in adoption recruitment.
- Contract requirements are aligned with Federal Child and Family Services requirements and outcomes.
- Success indicators for wellbeing attributed such as educational achievement, placement with siblings and relative placement will be included in reports.

Award Information

Contract Region	Family Preservation Services	Foster Care, Reintegration, Adoption
Region 1	DCCCA, Inc.	TFI Family Services, Inc.
Region 2	DCCCA, Inc.	KVC Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Region 3	St. Francis Community Services	TFI Family Services, Inc.
Region 4	St. Francis Community Services	St. Francis Community Services
Region 5	DCCCA, Inc.	Youthville

Links to Check Out

www.nationaladoptionday.org

National Adoption Day

www.nfpainc.org

National Foster Parent Association website

www.KFAPA.com

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association website

www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com

Our newly developed blog site provides educational and informative postings. Take a look!

www.usa.safekids.org

Go to the USA SafeKids link below to see product recalls and sign up to receive monthly updates on product recalls. Good information especially with ALL of the toys that have found their way into our homes after Christmas.



KFAPA

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When Foster Homes Move